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amnesty international

INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR

Seven East Timorese Seek Asylum

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Amnesty International is gravely concerned for the safety of seven young East Timorese who entered the Embassies of Finland and Sweden in Jakarta earlier today (23 June 1993) to seek political asylum. The organization calls upon the Governments of Finland and Sweden to offer the seven protection and to facilitate their departure from Indonesia. It also demands that the Indonesian authorities allow them to leave the country.

The four in the Finnish Embassy are named: **Mateus Brito Ximenes** (23), **Clementino Faria** (27), **Oscar Gonçalves da Silva** (20), **Ventura Valentina de Conceição** (23); the three in the Swedish Embassy are **Florencio Fernandes** (22), **Porfirio da Costa Oliveira** (23), and **Jose Manuel de Oliveira Sousa**.

According to evidence gathered by Amnesty International, all of these young men have suffered grave persecution by the Indonesian authorities for their non-violent political beliefs and activities in recent months and years. Some are known to have been victims of serious human rights violations, including arbitrary, unacknowledged detention and torture.

Amnesty International believes that all would be at serious risk of further serious violations, including torture and imprisonment as prisoners of conscience, if handed over to the Indonesian authorities.

It therefore urges the Governments of Sweden and Finland to facilitate the departure from Indonesia of the seven East Timorese by providing them with whatever protection or documentation may be required. It further urges that, in no circumstances, should their Embassies transfer the asylum-seekers to the control of the Indonesian authorities. In this regard, the organization notes that the prohibition on torture in Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), to which both governments

are party, applies to the acts of agents of contracting states abroad, including in diplomatic or consular premises. Given the risk of torture faced by the seven East Timorese in question, such a transfer may be inconsistent with government obligations under the ECHR.

Finally, Amnesty International demands that the Indonesian authorities allow the seven asylum-seekers to leave Indonesia and, in this regard, calls upon the authorities to provide effective and reliable guarantees that their right to leave Indonesia will be respected.

Figure 1 *Clementino Faria, one of the seven East Timorese asylum-seekers*